

Official Magazine Newsletter of
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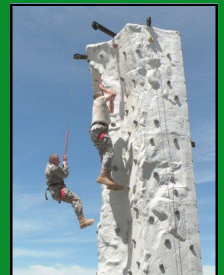
Brig. Gen. Davoren steps down—Col. Tafanelli takes over as Assistant Adjutant General—Army



Volunteers help move National Guard Museum exhibits to new addition!



Engineers keep building in Afghanistan!



995th has open house!

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On the cover:

Army Chief of Staff, Col. John Andrew salutes Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting during the ATAG change of command as Brig. Gen. John Davoren (right) prepares to step down as Assistant Adjutant General -Army, and Col. Lee Tafanelli takes over the position.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



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Commander's Call!

Great accomplishments, keeping up the good work—

The assistant adjutant general-Army Change of Command ceremony on July 10 marked the formal end of my assignment as commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. I want to let all of you know that I appreciate all of your efforts to continually improve the readiness of our units and your individual capabilities. As I transition to the assignment as the Division Commander of the 35th Infantry Division, I know Col. Lee Tafarielli will do well as the next Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG).

Each month I have been able to identify Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers and units who have performed exceptionally well while conducting their missions within Kansas and while deployed. The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery has the winners of the Army Central Command (ARCENT) best soldier and best Non-Commissioned Officer competition and those individuals will next compete at Fort Lewis, Wash. They have done exceptionally well and their units supported them by continuing their missions while the competition was completed.

The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry has deployed and is now engaged in their Horn of Africa (HOA) mission. Our second Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) is conducting their missions and building on the relationships that our first team established. The KSARNG will conduct one more HOA and three more ADT rotations as scheduled. Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation



***Brig. Gen. John Davoren
Assistant Adjutant General,
Kansas Land Component***

Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion) is completing their final validation and should be deployed by the time all of you have an opportunity to see this letter.

Our latest strength numbers show we need to continue to focus on recruiting and retention. We had an assigned strength of 5,335 Soldiers at the end of April and 5,340 in June. Our strength goal for the end of September 2010 is 5,365. We are making steady progress but need to continue to build our strength to support missions within Kansas and overseas.

Visits to inspect and assess our level of training will continue as units conduct annual training and home station training. I am very interested in a continuing assessment of the results of the armory

closing and consolidations, particularly in preparation for the return of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. My goal is to evaluate our level of training and continue to identify issues, and their solutions, that impact on Soldier and unit readiness.

For all of our units, our military occupational specialty (MOS) qualification rate remains very high and we can all be proud of that achievement. Leaders at all levels must continue to be committed to doing our best every day, live the Army values, and look for ways to improve every day in the future. We will learn from any errors and continue to improve performance throughout the Kansas Army National Guard. I am proud that we have Kansas soldiers who have the right training and right equipment to meet the needs of the communities in Kansas and meet the mission needs of our nation.

Thank you.

Warrant Officer News—

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy 4th of July. Summer is here and one thing we as leaders need to take into consideration is the temperature and humidity, if you or your soldiers are working outside you need to make sure everyone hydrates. Heat injuries are serious and you as leaders must look at the risk management and access the conditions.

The Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) received their accreditation last year allowing Kansas to be a WOCS regional training site for a five state region which includes California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Washington. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith is the Battalion Course manager for the region.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley is in the process of updating the warrant officer web page and once it is updated Lashley or I will send out an e-mail to notify all warrants that the site is operational. Hopefully this site will improve communications be-



**Command Chief
Warrant Officer,
Chief Warrant Officer 4
Hector Vasquez**

tween fellow warrant officers as well as seeking help or advice from warrant officers throughout our State.

We have two Warrant Officer Candidates, Warrant Officer Candidates Brian Fife and Susan Brown who are attending Warrant Officer Candidate School, these two candidates will be completing their five month Phase II in Camp Ashland, Neb., as well as starting and completing Phase III at Camp Atterbury, Ind., this month with the graduating ceremony July 31, so I would like to congratulate Fife and Brown for a job well done.

If you know of any Warrant Officer News

that you would like for me to place in the Sentinel such as promotions, graduations, retirements, or changes that affects warrant officers please send them to me and I will add them.

Also, the most important thing is if anyone is interested in becoming a Warrant Officer and creating an interesting and rewarding career, please contact Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Smith or the Warrant Officer recruiter Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Hancock.

MULTISTATE EXERCISE BRINGS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FORCES TOGETHER

Local, state and federal first responders and National Guard units from Kansas and Nebraska will join forces for an eight-day exercise in Salina July 11-18. Operation Smokey Hill will take place at Crisis City at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, the Saline County Emergency Operations Center and other sites in Salina, testing civilian and government response to a domestic terrorism scenario.

The training portion of the event will begin with a table-top exercise on July 12, which will involve state and Saline County agencies. On July 13, personnel and equipment will be deployed to Crisis City and other locations to work through simulated terrorist attacks in realistic training venues.

"This is the kind of 'get-your-hands-dirty' training that benefits everyone," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "In real world situations, civilian and military responders must work together, so it makes sense that we should train together. We can see how the other person responds, what they do, how they operate. When we all understand the roles that each agency plays in these events, it helps make our response and recovery operations safer and more efficient."

The exercise scenario will involve requesting support from Nebraska by the afternoon of July 13. This will fulfill one of the primary goals of this exercise, which is to provide certification training for the Nebraska National Guard's new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package. The CERF-P assists first responders with casualty search and extraction, decontamination and medical triage in the event of a terrorist attack.

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Officer Candidate School builds leaders of tomorrow

By 1Lt. Kathleen Argonza

On June 14, 2010, Soldiers in the Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Salina, Kan. woke up 4:30 a.m. to the not-so-soothing sounds of their Company Platoon Trainers cajoling them from their bunks.

These soldiers moved with a purpose, grabbed their M-16 A2 training aid rifle, donned their fully loaded ruck sacks and went on a five mile road march. This was all completed before 8 a.m., when most people were just getting to work—and this is just a small portion of the demands that they must endure this day.

During an average day, candidates sit through classes on military procedures and leadership and, during their ‘breaks’, they are ‘motivated’ by their

platoon trainers for a session of rigorous physical exercise. Did you ever get bored with a simple nine-to-five job? Well, these candidates might hope to see their pillows at around 10 p.m., if they’re lucky.

This is business as usual for an Officer Candidate who is earning the right to become a commissioned officer in the oldest fraternity, a leader of men and women, and defender of the United States Constitution.

Of course, being in the Army is not without its perks. In celebration of the Army’s 235th Birthday, the youngest and oldest Candidates will be cutting a cake with military sabers and they’ll partake in this grand old tradition among comrades.

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A Soldier’s First Deployment

By Spc. Celia Prince,

226th Engineer Company, Unit Public Affairs Representative

As one would expect for anyone’s first deployment, nerves are on edge and emotions are mixed as they prepare to leave loved ones to go fight in a war. This was the case for me, I am a soldier of the 226th Engineer Company of the 891st Engineer Battalion. I’ve been in the unit four years and knew from day one that this day was coming.

I wasn’t sure how I’d handle it, to be honest. Not that the Army doesn’t make sure I am amply prepared to fight off the bad guys, but for how I’d feel; how I would react when the time came.

Now this might make me sound insecure of my abilities as a soldier, but that’s not where I’m going with this. Many who have never deployed before don’t know what to expect. Sure, the briefings give insight and prepare us for what’s come, but, when it really comes down to it, all we know is that we will react.

I spent a lot of my time trying to prepare myself mentally for what was ahead. I went through the scenarios and possible outcomes of what a year of service overseas would do to me. I came up with feelings of distraught, despair and oddly enough, hope. I knew after all the mental gymnastics I tumbled through that I was going to be just fine.

I suppose that is what I’m getting at, that no matter how much worry or fear can strike, at the very bottom of it all you have to have faith. Because regardless of the hardships that we face while we are doing our missions and being away from those we want to spend time with, this is worth it. Selfless service and duty are two of the things a soldier is required to fulfill, and it’s that commitment to those responsibilities that makes every day in an unfamiliar place worth it.

To see the missions underway and the progress made as I’ve worked alongside my fellow soldiers brings new purpose to this fight we are all in. Knowing that when I walk away from Afghanistan that I was able to contribute to the building up of a base in order to help the locals, instill new pride and a sense of accomplishment to help those in a foreign land.

When my thoughts were just focused on the all the possible bad outcomes I lost sight of what we’re really here for. We’re here for a people who need help to become stabilized and through our contributions we help foster an atmosphere of change and hope for better in their land. It’s amazing what small steps can do.

See the thing about deployments is that they are full of unknown obstacles to overcome and they do challenge us to do things we may have never done before, but they also call out to something deep inside of us to push us to be more and to shape us into the leaders we are all destined to be.

Engineering Company transitions from travelers to constructionists

*By Sgt. 1st Class Travis Eichhorn
and Spc. Celia Prince
226th Engineering Company*

The month of February was one of travel and transition for the members of 3rd Platoon, 226th Engineering Company (Vertical), 891st Engineer Battalion. After long and cold month of training in Ft. McCoy, Wis., the Soldiers finally departed the continental United States on Jan. 29.

The journey lasted roughly 20 hours, with only one stop in Germany. After landing somewhere in the desolate reaches of the country Kyrgyzstan, the Soldiers were housed in large transient dome-like tents until which time they would be flown into Afghanistan. The first stop in Afghanistan was at Bagram Air Base, where soldiers were in-processed and underwent mandatory theater-specific briefings and training.

After that it was, “hurry up and wait,” for a flight to their assigned duty station.

“We were scheduled to leave two days prior to the day we flew out, but due to weather, the flight was delayed, said Spc. Christina Hull of 3rd Platoon.

“When we did arrive at the airport, we ended up sitting in the terminal for 11 hours waiting to fly out of Bagram. I was so tired and weary with waiting, but once I heard that we were actually leaving, I was so excited to actually fly that it didn’t matter how tired I was,” she said.

The housing arrangements in Bagram were of transient tents and the living space proved very close quarters. Some soldiers were fortunate enough to only have to spend a few days at Bagram, while others had the misfortune of having to stay close to two weeks. Finally, the last dozen soldiers of 3rd Platoon arrived via a C-130 cargo plane at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sharana; located in the Paktika province in southeastern Afghanistan. They were ready, for they knew it was finally time to go to work.

The first item on the agenda needed to be completed



Members of the 226th Engineer Company's 1st Platoon help in the building of the 16 room Super B-Hut for their detachment, 2nd Platoon who was expected to arrive within one month's timeframe.



upon arrival was movement to the rifle range. There soldiers were able to make any necessary adjustments to their weapons to ensure that the change in altitude hadn’t effected their sight picture. The range was run by 1st Lt. Douglass Vaughn, officer in charge (OIC), with the assistance of 3rd Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Travis Eichhorn, non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC).

Shortly thereafter, the platoon’s first mission was assigned to them consisting of two large scale projects. Both missions focused on improvements to the base of Sharana itself. The first project was the construction of a new Basic Operating Material (BOM) yard; an endeavor large in scale as well as physically, headed up by 4th squad’s leader and NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Blevens of Neodesha, Kan.

“We’ve made a lot of progress within the first couple of days; we were able to lay out triple strand of concertina wire all along the BOM perimeter, even with the weather being miserable,” said Blevens.

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“The troop’s morale has been excellent as they’ve had to endure the ever-changing weather and projects they’ve never been tasked with before. For example, we’ve been working on setting up a LAMS-V (Large Area Maintenance Shelter-Vehicle), which will be used as housing for a truss-building factory with only Sgt. Moran having any experience on setting one up. We’ve done very well considering and I’m proud of all the progress,” said Blevens.

The other project was the construction of a new Public Affairs Office (PAO) on the base. Staff Sgt. Jason Christian of Dallas, Texas, was the Soldier chosen to lead this particular mission. Christian, origi-

nally a Combat Engineer, was pleased to be tasked with his first vertical mission that was said to be possibly the “nicest building built on the FOB so far,” by several onlookers.

The end result turned an open building with a few concrete rooms into an office for VIP rooms and billets for the surge of troops scheduled to arrive on the FOB within the next couple of months.

“Excellent progress; more than I thought we could do,” said Christian.

“We started out with 10 to 15 soldiers with only a few being qualified as carpenters and masons, and ended with seven to eight by the end of the week, who were not qualified as carpenters, but were still able to complete the project within 10 days.”

“I’m proud of the guys we got in there, anytime you can beat your timeline it’s a success,” said Christian.

As February drew to a close, members of the 3rd Platoon could breathe a momentary sigh of relief after arriving at their duty station and begun their assigned missions.

“We’re all really excited to finally be here and have this opportunity to serve our country and contribute to the overall success of the mission here in Afghanistan,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eichhorn.



(Above, from left) During the cold days of February 2010, Sgt. Matthew Pierson and Spc. Kyler Wellman work on measuring and cutting dimensions needed to help build the 16-room Super B-Hut for their detachment, 2nd Platoon who was expected to arrive within one month's timeframe. **(right)** The progress 1st Platoon Soldiers made as the project nears completion. The Super B-Hut built for the 2nd Platoon detachment due to arrive within one month was completed in 18 actual work days from start to finish.

Photos provided by
Spc. Celia Prince
226th Engineer Company
Unit Public Affairs Representative



FIRST TRIP TO SHARANA CITY

By Spc. Brittany Sanderson ,
226th Engineering Company

It was my second full day to be stationed at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sharana, Afghanistan, when I found out I would be going out on a mission.

Beforehand, I had been stationed at FOB Shank for two months with 2nd Platoon, fulfilling missions there as a medic for one of the detachments from the 226th Engineer Company. When I was asked if I wanted to go actually “into town,” Sharana City, to meet and greet with some of the local residents, I was very excited, especially to learn that I would be able to experience the culture of the women who train at the school house. The women, who range anywhere from ages 18 to 35, are learning how to sew baby clothes and other like projects by one of their local females.

Although we weren’t able to directly communicate with the local residents, some of the female medics stationed at my FOB like my fellow Soldiers and my-

self were able to speak with the school teacher for a little bit with the help of our interpreter.

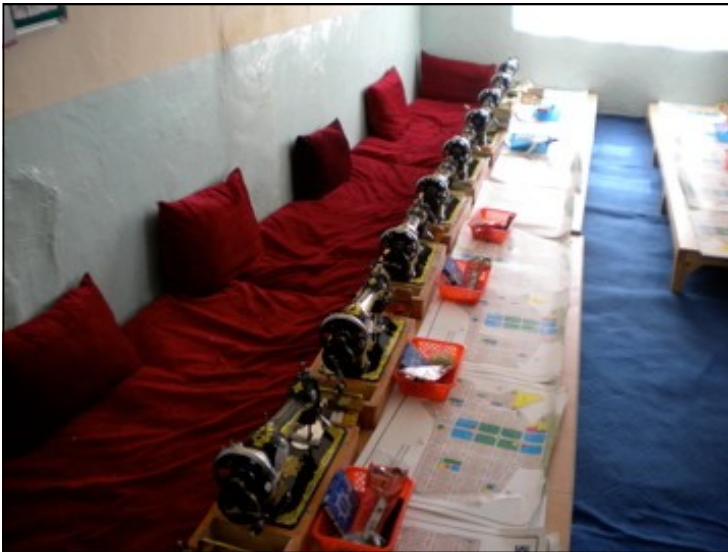
The teacher let us know that her classes would be taught to approximately 30 local females for about four and half hours each day with one class being taught lasting a month. We asked her if there were any types of supplies or any extra help we could provide to help with the teaching of the classes.

The teacher mentioned that any kind of reading materials with pictures in them would be a lot of help since she was going to be teaching classes on nutrition, how to take care of a baby, and how to sterilize water.

She said that since this is the first time any of the women have had any kind of formal training from a school in health care and maternal care and she wanted the reading material to be as comprehensive as possible. The mothers, when hearing that we were offering assistance, requested coloring books and toys to keep their children entertained while they sat with them through their classes.

Then the teacher gave us a chance to take a look around, I found it breathtaking at how beautiful, yet simple the sewing room was with all the antique sewing machines the women would be using. Behind the many machines, arranged in a straight row, were big red plush cushions. Each one lined up as one long couch that the students will use to sit on.

See FIRST TRIP, Page 9



During her convoy into one of the local villages, Sharana City in Afghanistan, medic Spc. Brittany Sanderson from the 226th Engineer Company was able to visit the classroom where the women of the village will learn how to operate sewing machines. Classes like these are hard to facilitate due to the limited rights women have, but through the help of Operation Enduring Freedom, women of the local villages are able to gain valuable knowledge to pass on for generations to come.

Photos are all courtesy of Spc. Brittany Sanderson.



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While we were in there, we saw samples of the types of clothing they will learn to sew along with the patterns they will use. But, what caught our eyes more was when someone noticed a broken window. We decided to take a picture of it in hopes that we can get material for it to be fixed for them.

After that we knew we had to assemble a care package for the women of the school where they can have supplies such as: a first aid kit box with lots of bandages and antibiotic ointment, other similar medicine to treat simple cuts and scrapes, baby shampoo and other personal hygiene items especially for women and children. We will also try to find educational books with pictures in them to help the teacher out with conducting her classes.

Throughout the rest of the mission I was mainly pulling security, but while doing so, the local children (only boys, never girls) would come up to me to try to interact with me. They felt comfortable enough with our interpreter that they had no problem playing amongst us, asking for candy and even trying to convince me to give my markers (felt pens) away; they didn't think it was fair that I had three markers and I wouldn't give them one.

Out of all the things I experienced this day, what surprised me most was when out from behind the group of children interacting with me walked up four little thin boys with white caps on. They were extremely polite and giggly, but what struck me was when the youngest one, around four-years-



Spc. Brittany Sanderson, a medic from the 226th Engineer Company takes time to pose during her visit into Sharana City for a picture that the local boys eagerly requested. Out of all the kids in this country, 40 percent of them are deprived of their access to an education. From this group of seven, Spc. Sanderson noticed that only the smallest boy in the white cap carried schoolbooks.

old, came right up to me and showed me his school books. He was the only one that had them.

Out of all the kids in this country, 40 percent of them are deprived of their access to an education. He was the only one amongst the group playing that was fortunate enough to not be deprived in this area of his life.

As I was reeling from the reality of this truth, and preparing to leave for the convoy back, the boys were asking me to take a picture with them, so I did. The memory of the day's trip will always be in my mind and heart, I can't wait to return with the care gifts to continue to help this town's growth and progress for a brighter future.



Displayed above are examples of the types of baby and children clothes the women of the local village will learn how to sew on a machine. For the women of the village, up until the new classes were introduced into their town, all clothes made were hand sewn.

From CANDIDATES, Page 5

Their experiences and lessons learned at the OCS School will forever alter them; they will stand taller, they will operate better under pressure and become more competent, capable and confident than their non-military peers.

Among their ranks are graduates from major universities including UC Irvine, Texas A&M, Kansas State University, Texas Tech, Sam Houston State University and University of New Mexico

Among the distinguished members of the OCS class is Officer Candidates (OC) Andrew Wolfe, a graduate of Washburn University (2005) with a degree in Bio-Chemical. He is a prior enlisted Marine Infantryman

and hopes to use his experience to lead an Infantry Platoon.

Wolfe is accompanied by fellow Alumnus OC Lucas Osborn (2004) who majored in Music and Education. They're followed by OC Joseph Swann, a Senior, who hopes to join the Military Intelligence community.

Capt. Jason D. Kander is a Military Intelligence Officer in the Missouri National Guard and serving as a Platoon Trainer. Kander holds a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University School of Law and works as a trial lawyer and a State representative.

"I was going to school in Washington DC during 9/11," said Kander. "I thought that I would have an ambitious career, and if I had spare time, I would serve. On that day I decided that I would serve first."

OC's that successfully complete the entire course will continue as Commissioned Officers in the Army National Guard. Usually drilling one weekend a month and two weeks a year with a full time civilian employment or they may also find a technician job or be placed Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) orders as a full time soldier in their home state.

"There are no regrets," concludes Kander, "The Army has given me the best professional training and I'd bet that any officer will say the same."

Graduates of OCS look forward to many leadership opportunities in the Army. Newly minted lieutenants start off by leading roughly 40 men and women as a platoon leader and may continue on to commanding their first company of over a hundred soldiers in four years as a captain.

Capt. Keith D. Pangburn graduated from Kansas State University, and holds a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law. He now holds a full time position as a dual-status technician for the state of Kansas.

"The well had just dried up. They were under-paying lawyers everywhere in this economy," Said Pangburn, commenting on the civilian job market.

"When I see people I graduated with, they just look so haggard and tired. They're definitely not getting the salary that you'd expect a lawyer to get."

"I'm glad I had the Army to go to," concludes Pangburn as he looked over the OCS parade field, "I wouldn't trade it."



(Above) An Officer Candidate attending the Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kan., on June 12, carries one of his classmates who is simulating someone with an injury. Officer Candidates were in the process of learning that their decisions in the future could cost soldier's life.

Photo by 1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza.



Kansas National Guard leads U.S. Peacekeeping Mission



The Kansas National Guard (2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery) has assumed the U.S. Infantry Battalion's (USBATT) mission of operating as the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai.

The United States has provided an Infantry Battalion Task Force in support of the MFO mission since the inception of the MFO.

The Mission of the MFO

The mission the Kansas National Guard has accepted is to occupy the southern sector of the Sinai and to observe and report in accordance with the Treaty of Peace and its Protocol. The (MFO) is an independent international organization, headquartered in Rome, with peacekeeping responsibilities in the Sinai. The origins of the MFO lie in Annex I to the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel, in which the parties undertook to request the United Nations to provide a force and observers to supervise the implementation of the treaty. When it did not prove possible to obtain Security Council approval for the stationing of a UN peacekeeping force in the Sinai, the parties negotiated a Protocol in 1981 establishing the MFO "as an alternative" to the envisioned UN force.

Also, under Article II of Annex I to the Treaty of Peace establishes four security zones, three in the Sinai in Egypt and one in Israel along the international border. Limitations on military forces and equipment within each zone are stipulated in Annex I to the Treaty.

The Contingents

The Battalion Task Forces used to rotate every six months as an integral unit and from 1982 through 2002, the responsibility for providing these battalions was rotated among the U.S. Army Active Component Infantry Divisions. From January 2002 to the present, the Army National Guard has provided the infantry battalions. At first National Guard battalions also served six month tours of duty but in January 2005, tours were extended to one year. Currently, tours are

for 10 month periods. To date, the National Guard of Arkansas, Oregon, Oklahoma, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, California, Texas, Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania and Ohio have provided battalions. In September 2009, the Kansas National Guard assumed the USBATT mission.

The contingents that make up the international force are: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Fiji, France, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, United States and Uruguay.

Execution of the Mission

To execute the mission, the Treaty Parties assigned to the MFO the following tasks:

- 1) Operation of checkpoints, reconnaissance patrols, and observation posts along the international boundary and Line B, and within Zone C.
- 2) Periodic verification of the implementation of the provisions of Annex I, to be carried out not less than twice a month unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
- 3) Additional verifications within 48 hours after the receipt of a request from either Party.
- 4) Ensure the freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran.

Under Agreed Arrangements signed on September 1, 2005, the MFO took on the additional responsibility of monitoring the deployment of border guards along the Egyptian side of the border between Egypt and Gaza. The MFO monitors the Border Guard Force by verifying that the deployment is consistent with the terms agreed between Egypt and Israel (as amended on July 11, 2007), including the stipulated number, characteristics and location of personnel, weapons, equipment and infrastructure of the Border Guard Force.

The Kansas unit mans 11 remote sites in its sector and also operates selected temporary observation posts and mobile patrols on a random basis each day. They are also responsible for the operation and security of South Camp.

Students visit MFO

On May 17, 2010, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) were visited by some very special guests. Students from the Sharm French School came to South Camp as part of a local community outreach. The students, ranging in ages from 6 to 12, arrived around in the early morning and were taken around to tour different areas and sections of South Camp.

First on the agenda was a quick group photo in front of the U.S. Infantry Battalion's (USBATT) Headquarters followed by a short presentation. The children and teachers all seemed very enthusiastic about what was in store for them throughout the day.

They next moved on to the South Camp Airfield where they were able to see a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter take off for a mission. Once clear they were able to see a Black Hawk up close and personal, climbing on board and putting on some of the equipment that the crew wears during flights.

During their tour of the airfield, they were able to view an up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HUMVEE). The children liked this, especially after they found the gunner's hatch. Many of them got to stand and look out the hatch at their friends and teachers. The South Camp Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team was also on hand and soon attention turned to them. As 1st Lt. Nicolas Altgilbers stated, "It was pretty hard to compete against a robot and a guy in a bomb suit. Overall though

the kids had fun."

After the airfield the group moved on to Herb's Gym where they were able to see some of the equipment that people on South Camp can use to stay fit. A few minutes there and it was off to the South Camp Fire Department. Here the students got to climb on the firetrucks and put on some of the safety equipment.

For their final area tour of South Camp, everyone boarded a bus which took them to Herb's Beach. They were able to see the beach but unfortunately they were not able to get off of the bus. The driver did a quick turn around and headed back to the South Camp dining facility for lunch.

During lunch, the children were able to go through the main food line or get some short order items like pizza, hot dogs and hamburgers. Although there was spaghetti available the children were leaning towards the pizza for the most part. Everyone cleaned their plates because after lunch there was ice cream. All of the children and some of the adults got their scoop or two of ice cream to finish off the lunch.

Following lunch, Lt. Col. Marc Onolfo presented the director of the school with the group photo set into a frame. All of the children received a goodie bag loaded with trinkets from the Army National Guard. Some of the more popular items were t-shirts and lapel pins. Overall, it was a very exciting and fun-filled day with the children and certainly a break from the normal visitors we have at South Camp.



(above) Students from the Sharm French School pose beside MFO Black Hawk Helicopter.

(left) Two Sharm French School children pose out of the QRF's Hum-vee Turret during their South Camp visit on May 17.

Photos provided



Dedication across the Boards

By Spc. Aaron Hughes

Subject matter experts are who we look to in the Army for a variety of topics. They spend countless hours reading and researching one topic to achieve and maintain proficiency in that area. They then must spend the time it takes to become confident in presenting the information in a professional manner. Now imagine the time and dedication it takes to become that proficient on not just one topic but a multitude of areas. Staff Sgt. Jared Meier and Spc. Stephen Levins have chosen to take on that task to represent the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, in the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year Competition.

Their journeys started on South Camp in Sinai, Egypt competing against other members of their own Battery in such area as Warrior Tasks and military knowledge. Prior to the competition they spent countless and sometimes continuous hours studying and quizzing each other on the various areas needed for the competition. Learning large amounts of information and reciting verbatim longer scripts such as the Soldiers Creed, Warrior Ethos, and the NCO Creed completely from memory. After winning against the members of Battery B, they then moved on to compete against other soldiers in the Battalion and triumphed.

Meier and Levins then moved on to the Task Force Sinai Board on North Camp in Sinai, Egypt. This placed them against the best soldiers in Egypt. They again out-shined the competition and moved on to the 1st Theater Support Command (TSC) Boards in Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. There, additional skills were added on to include weapon qualification, land navigation and the Army Physical Fitness Test. Answers to questions were also no longer just verbal and the soldiers now must be able to clearly communicate their answers in writing in the form of an essay. Levins and Meier again set the standard for not only their battalion, but the Kansas National Guard by coming home with the gold-proverbially speaking.

The hard work and sacrifice of these truly professional soldiers are now sending them to Camp Buehring in Kuwait to contend in the Army Central Command board (ARCENT). There the opposition widens to include soldiers from all over areas of op-

erations in the Middle East. The winners of this will then move on to competitions in Fort Hood, Texas and then Washington, D.C., for the final round.

They have enjoyed the opportunity to compete at this level and will give nothing less than their best. Good luck to you Staff Sgt. Jared Meier and Spc. Stephen Levins and to the rest of soldiers competing at the ARCENT level, your dedication to tactical and technical proficiency shines in the motto of being Army Strong.



(above) 1st Theatre Support Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Danfert Espinal (left) and Task Force Sinai Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Fauntleroy (right) pose with Staff Sgt. Jared Meier and Spc. Stephen Levins, both members of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, after winning the 1st Theater Support Command (TSC) Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year competition.

(below, from left) Staff Sgt. Jared Meier, from Topeka, Kan., and Spc. Stephen Levins, from Wichita, Kan., pose with some of the awards and coins they received during the 1st TSC NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.

Photos by Spc. Aaron Hughes



ISRAEL-LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

*By Lt. Col. John Rueger, Commander
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 130 Field Artillery,
Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO), Sinai*

I recently had the opportunity to attend the U.S. Infantry Battalion (USBATT) sponsored staff ride to Israel. The purpose of this trip was two-fold. On one hand, it was a chance to learn about the 1967 and 1973 wars between Israel and its neighbors. Additionally, it was a chance to visit several other culturally significant sites including the city of Jerusalem where all three faiths, Christianity, Islam and Judaism come together. It was an incredible experience that most on the trip will probably never forget.

The first stop was at Masada, which is near the Dead Sea. Masada was a fortified refuge built around 35 BC on the top of a plateau. During conflict between the Jews and Romans, a Jewish splinter group forced out of Jerusalem overtook Masada and settled there for a period of time.

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(above) A map showing Israel's location. **(left)** Masada, which is next to the Dead Sea. **(below)** Tourists visit the Masada and learn about the Jewish splinter cell's historic stand against the Roman empire. The Masada has been called a wonder of engineering due to its water collecting abilities.



(above) Looking out from the top of Masada towards the evaporation pools of the Dead Sea. Several breakaway Jews were held under siege here for several months by the Romans and ultimately decided death over capture.

Photo provided



From ISRAEL, Page 14

The Romans eventually decided to lay siege to Masada, built a wall around the mountain and built a ramp to allow them to reach the top with their battering ram. The siege lasted three months. When the Romans finally breached the wall at the top of the plateau, they found that the occupants had committed suicide. Today you can still see the ramp and the Roman camps at the bottom of the hill and much of the infrastructure is well preserved. It is a very impressive archeological site with a unique story.

Jerusalem was the next stop. Our time was spent traveling to the Mount of Olives and then to the old city. Traveling in the old city was incredible. It was fascinating to see the combination of all three faiths as one moved around from site to site. There is probably not another city in the world with as much history, relevance and conflict than Jerusalem. The city has been destroyed twice and captured and recaptured 44 times. The group visited the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and some of the shops in the Christian quarter.

From Jerusalem, the group next traveled to Tiberius, which is on the Sea of Galilee. Tiberius is a central location to explore the Golan Heights. The Sea of Galilee is really much smaller than I imagined. Right up the road was Capernaum, where Jesus developed his ministry. Some members of the group boarded boats to take a water tour of the Sea. The boat I traveled on also had a large number of school children who were also accompanied by weapons carrying adults. It was a strange site to see, but that is what is the norm in Israel.

The Golan Heights visit was remarkable. We had a chance to visit one of the largest Armor museums in

the world and see multiple versions of the Merkava tank including the latest main battle tank, the Merkava IV. In the northern Golan, we traveled to the top of Mount Hermon and were able to visualize the importance of the Golan strategically between Syria and Israel as well as see Lebanon from that vantage point.



(above, from left) The guide Shimon and Lt. Col. John Rueger display the flags of two important allied nations in front of a hulk of a burned out tank in the Valley of the Tears battlefield. Photo provided

We traveled to a major battle site in the 1973 war called the Valley of Tears. Here you can see the scarred earth, battle positions and even hulks of tanks and other war machines still left on the old battlefield. It was here that just a few Israeli tanks held off a Syrian force 10 times larger until reinforcements arrived.

Next up was a visit to Metula, which is located in the northernmost area of Israel on the Lebanon border. Next to Metula is a kibbutz, or collective

farm, where the group received an animated briefing from a farmer originally from Cleveland. As we were receiving the briefing, we were looking out over the border to Lebanon trying to understand how the Hezbollah used the houses for firing platforms for rockets and mortars.

Finally, we travelled to Southern Golan to view another major battlefield site with the Syrians. One can still see the bunkers, antitank ditches and pre-staged tank emplacements that still can be used today if necessary. We also had a chance to visit the only border crossing between Israel and Syria which is controlled by the United Nations.

The last day was spent in Tel-Aviv listening to a counter terrorism expert and some Israeli Defense Force intelligence on the terror threat in the area and what it means to Israel. This gave the group a better appreciation for what activity may be occurring in the Sinai and Israel that could drive decisions that the MFO makes regarding Force Protection measures.

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Modular Training Battalion Under New Leadership

By Staff Sgt. Jamie J. Baxter,
2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment
Unit Public Affairs Representative

“Every end is a new beginning” and this change of command ceremony signifies no less. As the soldiers at the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regiment say farewell to Lt. Col. John Campbell they also took the time to warmly welcome Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley with a change of command ceremony held in Salina, Kansas on June 5, 2010. It seems as if it were just yesterday that the Modular Training Battalion (MTB) soldiers welcomed Campbell as their Commander however, as the wise proverb asserts, this ceremony marks not only an ending but a new beginning.

In speaking with Campbell about his term at the Kansas Regional Training Institute’s (KSRTI) MTB it was with fondness and appreciation for the work of the soldiers he commanded that he said, “it’s always bittersweet to leave command of a unit made up of top quality soldiers who are so passionate about the jobs they do. I have valued my time here very much, and I thank these soldiers for inspiring me as a leader. I am confident that the unit will continue to excel and impact it’s trainees under the capable hands of Lt. Col. Hinkley.”

As with most military ceremonies, this one was rich in tradition and customs. The passing of the unit’s Colors served as the visual representation of the change of command. This part of the ceremony began as Master Sgt. James Haynes passed the Colors to Campbell for the last time. Campbell passed the Colors to Windham thereby relinquishing his responsibilities and authority. Windham passed the Colors to Hinkley charging him with the same responsibility and authority that Campbell handed over moments before. To conclude the passing of the Colors



Col. Robert Windham (right) accepts the 2nd Battalion, 235th Training Regimental Colors from outgoing Modular Training Battalion Commander Lt. Col. John Campbell during the change of command ceremony held in Salina, Kansas on June 5th, 2010.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jamie J. Baxter
2nd Battalion, 235th Training Battalion,
Unit Public Affairs Representative

portion of the ceremony Hinkley passed the Colors back to Haynes.

As Hinkley addressed his soldiers and the guests of the ceremony he took the time to thank those in attendance to include his wife and children.

“One of my favorite definitions of leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen,” he said.

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Many described the trip as a trip of a lifetime. It gave me an appreciation for the entire State of Israel, the issues they are facing and the history from Roman times up to recent conflicts. We were not able to spend much time at any one location unfortunately. Hopefully someday, some of us will be able to travel back here again and visit.

(right) The only howitzer at the Armor museum. This is the same chassis as the 8 inch howitzer chassis that the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery used several years ago. The tube however is closer to a 155mm cannon.

Photo provided



From TRAINING BATTALION, Page 16

"I know that the men and women of this Army and the Kansas Army National Guard are making extraordinary things happen... I don't think that there is a more critical time for quality training than today and by utilizing the combat experiences of the trainers in this Regiment."

He concluded his oration by saying, "I look forward to leading the way with the great leaders and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion to continue to contribute to making extraordinary things happen that effect the national strategy of the United States and for peace and protection of the citizens of this great nation."

Hinkley joined the Army in 1983 where he served in the Utah Army National Guard as an enlisted soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer. In 1990 he was commissioned from the California Military Academy. After completing the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course as the distinguished graduate, he returned and served in various



Col. Robert Windham (middle) and the newly appointed Modular Training Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Douglas Hinkley (left), the outgoing MTB commander, Lt. Col. John Campbell (right), attending Soldiers and guests sing The Army Song at the conclusion of the change of command ceremony held in Salina, Kans. on June 5, 2010.

positions within the California, New York, and Kansas Army National Guard, including the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, in Kansas; in 2003, he deployed to Iraq with the battalion. In 2005 and 2006, he served in the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

His military education includes Non-Commissioned Officer's Academy, Army Battle Skills Course, Training, Advising and Counseling (TAC) Officer School, Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Pre-Command Course, the Combined Arms Services and Staff School, and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. His civilian education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Utah State University and an Master's Degree in Business from the University of Phoenix.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (first Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (third Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (second Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), the National Defense Service Medal (Bronze Star), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Staff Badge.

Campbell's service to the Army and to the State of Kansas began in 1986 when he received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Kansas, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Human Resources. After completing Field Artillery (FA) Officer's Basic Course he then made his way through the Field Artillery (FA) community of Kansas. His travels placed him in various positions and first brought him to the 2nd Battalion 130th Field Artillery. In 1993 he deployed with the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; then in 1996 he was deployed to Bosnia with Battery E (Target Acquisition), 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. His latest deployment was with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery to Iraq.

Campbell has a vast military education that includes FA Officer Basic and Advanced Courses Combined Arms Service and Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers Course. He is currently attending the U.S. Army War College.

Campbell's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (first Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (sixth Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (first Oak Leaf Cluster), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal (first Campaign Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal (Former Yugoslavia), and the Combat Action Badge.

Brig. Gen. Davoren returns to 35th Infantry Division

*Kansas Adjutant General,
Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting
pins the Legion of Merit to
Brig. Gen. John Davoren for
his service as the Assistant
Adjutant General-Army.*

*Maj. Mike Wallace,
105th MPAD*



*Story by
Lt. Col. Rex Johnson, JFHQ
Public Affairs*

Brig. Gen. John Davoren is returning to the 35th Infantry Division for his fourth tour of service with the Division. Having served in several positions with the 35th, this time he is assuming the role of Division Commander in a ceremony that will be conducted on Saturday, Aug. 28.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to be the next 35th Division Commander," said Davoren. "When I started with the Kansas National Guard I had not really expected to someday be the 35th Division Commander."

Davoren's military career began 34 years ago. Growing up near Basehor, Kan., he credits family members as his inspiration for deciding to serve in uniform.

"My uncle and cousin served in World War II," Davoren explained. "Even as late as now they are just now starting to talk about some of the stories. The idea of service to the nation really appealed to me. And early on I thought the Army was a good fit for me."

"I am old enough that the draft was still in effect when I graduated high school," continued Davoren. "And my draft number for that year was number 13. I

had a cousin who had been a Kansas University Air Force ROTC graduate. He talked to me about the programs there. That was the first time that I had considered being an officer. So I transferred to Kansas University and then received a Regular Army commission upon graduation."

Davoren received his commission as second lieutenant in the infantry in 1976. During his first seven years he was on active duty; being stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Fort Riley, Kan. About his sixth year of service, he and his wife decided that they should look for an opportunity to come back to Kansas and be near their families. In 1985, then Capt. Davoren transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard.

One of the factors that Davoren enjoys about the Guard is the ability to serve with the same units throughout a career. He has had three different assignments with the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry, and this will be his fourth tour with the 35th Division.

The mission for the National Guard has changed a great deal since 1985. Davoren commented that one of the things he has noticed about the Soldiers in the Kansas National Guard is their ability to adapt.

"We have seen this transition from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. We have a force that has met all of the missions within Kansas, within the United States, and overseas," said Davoren. "We have also seen the Kansas Army National Guard transition away from some of the traditional mobilization efforts, whether they are security forces to some of the more unique missions that we have right now. Fifteen years ago we would have never predicted that we would have the repeated deployments of forces that we have now. Five years ago we would not have predicted that some of the more in-demand operations would be units performing missions like the ground liaison officer, the training teams, or the agri-business development teams."

Davoren served as the Kosovo Force (KFOR) 9 commander during the 2007-2008 deployment. The mission included over 1,300 U.S. Soldiers, several from the 35th Division headquarters as well as various units and individuals from 20 states and two territories. It also included soldiers from the countries of Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and Armenia.

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From DAVOREN TO 35TH, Page 18

Davoren acknowledges that deployments are not easy, and Soldiers are called to serve in tough areas of the world. He commented that the U.S. doesn't send the military to nice places that have no problems. "They send us to places to assist in either maintaining the peace or making the peace so that issues can be resolved so that there is no future conflict," Davoren said.

Davoren complimented the level of technical ability of today's Soldier in the National Guard. "In the last 10 years we have folks who are more highly trained, more professional than we have had at any other time," Davoren added. "Our level of performance is way up. It is a matter of maintaining that level of performance."

Davoren is inheriting a division that has a number of exciting missions. In addition to KFOR 9, the 35th has carried the two-year Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART) mission, and recently completed Operation Key Resolve in Korea.

"Right now we are taking a look at transitioning away from the DART mission," said Davoren. "And as we do that transition, we will take a look at the future exercises that are coming up. Right now the 35th is signed up to participate in Yama Sakura exercises in January 2011 and January 2012. In the middle of that will be the first National Guard division to participate in the new full spectrum exercise that will occur mid-2011. There will be opportunities for all members of the 35th Division headquarters to demonstrate their readiness through these exercises. Our relevance to the whole war-fight will be proven as we complete these exercises and validate our capabilities. And then continue to be responsive to calls for any mission that may occur in Kansas, within the region, or internationally to meet the needs of our nation."

One of the key elements of Davoren's command philosophy is to make sure that the Soldier and their families are aware of the upcoming events with the Guard. He supports communication as far in advance as possible so that Soldiers can prepare.

"We as leaders owe it our Soldiers and their families to let them know when we are going to be home and when we are going to be away," said Davoren. "That way the families and the employers will be able to plan for those events. The majority of our



During the recent change of command ceremony, Brig. Gen. John Davoren thanks the Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers that served for him in the last couple of years.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

folks are managing three competing requirements: Their Guard career, their civilian career, and their family. And it is not always in that order."

Davoren will be transitioning from his role as the Commander of the Army National Guard to become the Commander of the 35th Infantry Division. He lives in Lansing, Kan., with his wife Debra. They have been married for 34 years and have two grown children; a daughter, Jennifer, who lives in Houston, Texas, and a son, Kyle, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. In his civilian job, Davoren is a Branch Chief with the U.S. Army Force Management Support Agency in Fort Leavenworth.

Tafanelli selected as new Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, has selected Col. Lee Tafanelli as the next assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. Tafanelli will assume command from Brig. Gen. John Davoren, who is stepping down from that position to take command of the 35th Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth.

“Colonel Tafanelli has the experience and knowledge necessary to do a superb job in this new role,” Bunting said. “He has held many leadership positions in the Kansas Guard, has worked hard on behalf of the soldiers he leads, and has the right skills to lead the Army Guard through the transformations the future will require.”

Tafanelli has been submitted for promotion to brigadier general. Confirmation is expected by the U.S. and Kansas Senate later this year.

“General Davoren will do an excellent job leading the 35th Division,” Bunting continued. “His experience as assistant division commander has already shown his capability as a leader and we know he will do well in this new position.”

Col. Lee Tafanelli's biography

Tafanelli, commander of the 69th Troop Command, also has served as the director of operations for the Kansas Guard. The 1979 Frontenac High School graduate joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1980 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers through Pittsburg State University's ROTC program in 1982.

Tafanelli has served in a wide variety of command and staff positions as a traditional Guardsman, active Guard and Reserve and active duty Soldier at the company, battalion, brigade, state headquarters and Department of the Army level. His battalion and brigade level assignments included reconnaissance officer; equipment platoon leader; supply officer; company commander; and training officer in the 891st Engineer Battalion. He also served as the personnel officer and training officer

of the 69th Infantry Brigade, 35th Infantry Division. In 2005, as commander of the 891st Engineer Battalion, he led the battalion during a deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tafanelli served as the executive assistant to the Adjutant General of Kansas, State Recruiting and Retention manager, mobilization planner; Force Integration and Readiness officer; Education Services officer; and Surface Maintenance Manager at state headquarters. At the Department of the Army level, he served as military assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

In 1999, Tafanelli earned a master's degree in Environmental Planning and Management at Kansas State University. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course, Army Force Development and Modernization Course, Army Mobilization and Deployment Course and the Air Command and Staff Officer Course. He is also a graduate of the Army's Airborne and Air Assault Courses.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Tafanelli is a state representative for the 47th District in the Kansas Legislature and a program coordinator for the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

He is married to Tammy, who is a dental assistant. They have been married for 17 years and live in Ozawie with their two children, Nicholas (16) and Francesca (13). He likes to hunt, fish and boat.

Interview with the new ATAG

The following text is from an exclusive interview with Col. Lee Tafanelli.

Q: *What are your goals for the Kansas Army National Guard?*

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From TAFANELLI, Page 20

A: To ensure mission readiness for both our state and federal missions, and aggressively transform ourselves into a sustainable and relevant part of the nation's security far into the future.

Q: *Where do you see the role of the Kansas Army National Guard going in the next 10 years?*

A: For a number of years, we've been watching global, regional and Kansas-specific trends, to identify potential threats and distinctive opportunities for the Kansas National Guard. Some of those trends, like the rise of asymmetric warfare and the failure of certain nation states, are obvious.

Others, like the pending funding crunch for military and public safety programs are just now being widely understood by policy makers and military leaders. This type of long-term analysis (alongside a rigorous budgetary review process) will be vital for charting the way ahead for the next several years.

Future mission opportunities will not be easy to "see," as easy for us to obtain, and will require much greater foresight and preparation on our part. We will pursue missions, force structure, training and concepts that best balance the needs of our state and nation, the resources (people, time and money) available to execute, and our unique state capabilities.

Our ability to work with and understand the capabilities of other public safety entities local, state and federal along with the private sector and non-governmental organizations will be key.

Q: *What would you say the strengths of the Kansas Army National Guard are right now?*

A: We have tough, thinking, combat tested soldiers who are not afraid of a challenge. As a result, the non-commissioned officers and officers we have today are both tactically and technically proficient at their craft. I believe the other great strength that we have is our families in the National Guard.

We have asked much of them in the last several years and they have answered the call and sacrificed much for the Guard. Additionally, although all states support their military, I believe that Kansas shares a special bond with its military members. These things will be extremely important in facing the challenges ahead.

Q: *What do you like about Kansas and its people?*

A: I love Kansas. My wife and I grew up here, we've raised our kids here and we plan on living here the rest of our lives here. The people of Kansas have a unique combination of common sense, good heartedness, work ethic and self-reliance. I've seen it for years in the Guard, and it's definitely made me extremely proud when I saw it everyday in my soldiers in Iraq.

Q: *What do you do at your civilian employment at Kansas State University?*

A: I coordinate research and projects dealing with food safety for the National Agriculture Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University. We work with federal, state and local agencies, private industry and other educational institutions to ensuring that this part of America's critical infrastructure remains safe from natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism.

Q: *How does your position as State Legislature (District 47) affect your role as ATAG? (and vice-versa). What have you learned as a State Representative that can be applied to your position as the ATAG?*

A: As a traditional Guardsman, my full-time job and Legislative position are as separate from my National Guard career as any other Kansas National Guard soldier. But just like other traditional Guard members, their other jobs sometimes provide helpful insight in respect to their military career.

My time in the Legislature has been very beneficial in helping me understand the gravity of the state and federal issues and more importantly the fiscal challenges we face. I can tell you without hesitation, that this is not a short-term budget problem and that there are no easy answers.

Over the next five to 10 years, Guardsmen across the country will see tremendous change, as Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has made clear, and it is going to be challenging for the military. Fortunately for Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting has long seen this budgetary crisis (and the other transformational trends), and has positioned Kansas far ahead of other states in preparing for the future. It is imperative that we continue those efforts to maximize our opportunities to remain a viable and relevant force for our state and nation.



Brig. Gen. Davoren steps down and Col. Tafanelli takes command

In a formal change of command ceremony held at the Kansas National Guard Museum on July 11, Brig. Gen. John Davoren stepped down as the Commander of the Army National Guard to become the Commander of the 35th Infantry Division. Col. Lee Tafanelli steps up to take the role as the Commander of the Army National Guard.

Davoren was visibly touched by the hundreds of well-wishers, family members and guests that came to witness the change of command.

"It has been a privilege to be the Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard for almost two years," he said.

He then spoke about the importance of the work the Soldiers do and emphasized on the families.

"For our families and friends, I want to recognize your support and courage, too. You provide support to our Soldiers and each other when we are called to serve Kansas or our nation. I know I have relied



Members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery executed a cannon salute during the ceremony. The 35th Division Band also performed.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

heavily on the love and support that my wife has provided throughout these past year," he said.

"To all the Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard, you should be proud that you have been in the right place at the right time Kansas or our Nation has called."

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(left photo) Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting thanks Brig. Gen. John Davoren of his work for the last two years. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD. **(middlephoto)** Brig. Gen. John Davoren turns over the colors to Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, who **(right photo)** then turns over the colors to the new commander, Col. Lee Tafanelli.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Lt. Col. Mohatt takes over command of 69th Troop Command

In the early morning of July 11, at the Kansas National Guard Museum, Col. Lee Tafaanelli stepped down as the commander of 69th Troop Command and Lt. Col. Anthony V. Mohatt took over as the commander.

Mohatt lauded the command. "This Brigade has a stellar reputation as a mission ready unit and its recent history proves its worth to the Army, Kansas and the American people. I am confident that it will continue to excel," he said.

Mohatt said that he will give his all to lead, coach and assist each member of the command to meet the challenges that lie ahead for the unit.

Tafaanelli will take over as the Assistant Adjutant General-Army. He wanted to thank everyone that had made his efforts as the troop commander a lot easier.

"It truly has been my privilege to be apart of such an organization and work with such truly outstanding professionals," Tafaanelli said.

Assitant Adjutant General-Army, Brig. General John Davoren said that besides the leadership of the outgoing commander, the Soldiers and non-commissioned officers helped the unit attain and keep the unit's highest level of professionalism and that he knows that Mohatt will be able to do the same.



(above) Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt accepts the unit colors from Brig. Gen. John Davoren. (right) Brig. Gen. John Davoren awards the Legion of Merit to outgoing commander, Col. Lee Tafaanelli. (below) Lt. Col. Anthony Mohatt says that he is looking forward to his new command.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



The official party 'Troops the Line' in an inspection curing the change of command ceremony.

Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Robert Havens, 105th MPAD



Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

Contingency contracting supports warfighter, emergency operations

By Capt. Rob Parvin,
1979th Contingency Contracting Team

It is Friday night at about 7:30 p.m. and the worst imaginable thing has happened. A Katrina-like event has occurred that has destroyed much of the infrastructure in a southern state and the president has immediately declared the event a federal disaster entitled to federal emergency response dollars to provide immediate life sustaining resources to the affected area.

The units that deploy to the disaster area require immediate resources costing several thousands of dollars to spend for most of which require contracts. As a leader in your unit, you already know the civilian contract workforce at your state United States Property and Fiscal Office does not work typically work on the weekends. Who do you call?

As of Oct. 1, 2008, every National Guard state and territory was assigned at least one Contingency Contracting Team for just such an event. The CCT is a unit trained and capable of conducting contracting actions to obligate federal dollars for Contingency Operations within the United States or overseas, working with the unit on the ground or from a distance via phone and e-mail, if required.

“The primary purpose of the Contingency Contracting Team is to provide effective and efficient contracting services in support of the warfighter and in humanitarian operations through innovative policy, guidance and oversight,” said Master Sgt. Dwayne Burgoon, 1989th Contingency Contracting Team.

A contingency is an emergency caused by natural

disasters, terrorists, subversions, or other reasons that require a response involving military personnel and equipment. A declared contingency is codified into law by Title 10 USC 101(a) (13). Contingency Contracting is a part of a career management field that has been introduced back into the Army Military Occupation Specialty with the designation of 51C.

Due to the sharp increase of dollars in commercial purchasing being spent it is in the government’s interest to build a contracting career infrastructure in the Army uniformed services to augment their civilian contracting workforce.

The CCT can be sent to procure commercial items to support a contingency mission in austere environments where

it is not practical to always send their civilian contract counterparts.

A standard CCT team is made up of two officers and two noncommissioned officers. The Kansas Army National Guard has two CCTs assigned under the Joint Forces Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in Topeka. The 1989th CCT officer in charge is Maj. Andrew Gast. Capt. Robert Parvin is the officer in charge for the 1979th CCT.

Both teams are capable, on order, to provide support logistics missions for both stateside missions funded by federal dollars and overseas missions. Most state disasters that require a call up of National Guard Soldier’s for support missions are not supported by CCT teams unless the emergency is designated a federal disaster, at which time federal funds are used to aid the recovery of the area, as was the case with Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



(above) Members of the Contingency Contracting Team at the National Guard Bureau Acquisition Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. (from left) Capt. Jonathan Mack, Maj. Andrew Gast, Master Sgt. Dwayne Burgoon, Staff Sgt. Roger Miller and Capt. Robert Parvin.

Photo provided

See CONTRACTING, Page 26

Soldiers return from Kosovo

Twenty-one Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard were honored during a ceremony in the Kansas National Guard armory in Lawrence on May 14 as they returned home from a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

The Soldiers are from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Kansas City, Kan.

"These Soldiers have done a fantastic job and we're glad to welcome them home," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general.

"I can tell you that if I had been gone from my family for eight months probably the last thing I would want to hear is a long speech from a politician," said Gov. Mark Parkinson, "so I will be very brief."

"But my brevity doesn't reflect a lack of appreciation," he continued. "I will tell you we are extremely appreciative of your service. The military officers have told me that you served with distinction and just did a terrific job."

Thanking them for their serving, Parkinson said that service should always be a point of pride for the Soldiers.

"Whatever it is that you do for the rest of your lives in your civilian careers," said Parkinson, "you and your families and your kids and grandkids and those that come after them will always know that you served your country with honor and with courage and with great distinction and that's something that you should always be quite proud of."

"So on behalf of our 2.8 million Kansans, I want to congratulate you for your service, thank you for your service, let you know how extremely happy we are that you've made it back safe and sound. Soldiers, welcome home to Kansas."

Company commander Capt. Darren Koberlein told the assembled families and friends how much he appreciated the Soldiers who served under his command.

"I want to tell you guys

how proud I am of your Soldiers," said Koberlein. "They did an outstanding job in the finest tradition of the Kansas National Guard."

"I can not say that I have seen a better mission-ready company. Everybody was on their game." The Soldiers deployed in August 2009 to Kosovo, where they were attached to the 231st Brigade Support Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, as the Quick Reaction Force for Task Force Defender, KFOR 12, Multinational Task Force East.



Gov. Mark Parkinson welcomed home 21 Kansas National Guardsmen who returned in May from an eight-month mission to Kosovo.

Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT



93% of the couples who participated in Strong Bonds showed significantly improved relationship quality!

Aug. 20-22, 2010
Kansas City Marriott – Country Club Plaza
4445 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Register both Soldier and spouse for this event at www.strongbonds.org or by calling (785) 274-1514. Registration ends 2 p.m. Aug. 3, 2010!

Lodging, breakfast and lunch are provided.
Travel/mileage expenses reimbursed.
Married couples only event – No childcare available.
Retreat will begin at 7:30 Friday evening and conclude by noon on Sunday.

Limited to the first 45 couples!
Soldiers in the 161st Field Artillery will be given first priority.
For more information call (785) 274-1514.

Whether you've celebrated one anniversary or 20, as an Army couple you can anticipate more excitement – and expect more challenges – than the average civilian couple. Long separations, the stress of military life, deployments, and reintegrating as a couple once your loved one comes home can subject Army marriages to extreme hardship.

The marriage enrichment retreat is designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope, and rekindle the spark in marriages.

For more information please contact the Joint Support Chaplain Office at 785-274-1514 or mike.mcclellan@us.army.mil

731ST Truck Company conducts change of command ceremony

After more than two years in command, Capt. Christopher Sanders turned over the reins of the 731st Light/Medium Truck Company on June 5 in a brief ceremony at the South Wichita Armory.

The ceremony was the last act for Sanders with the unit, which had returned from a successful annual training mission in support of the South Carolina National Guard on June 4.

Succeeding Sanders was Capt. Peter Euler, who is taking his second consecutive command after transferring to the 731st from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 287th Sustainment Brigade.

Sanders has been with the 731st for almost 15 years, joining the unit in 1996 when he enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard. Euler comes to the 731st with a strong transportation background, but limited line-haul experience, as he has served with transportation companies performing security forces missions on two deployments.

Sanders, who was presented with the Army Achievement Medal from 287th Special Troops Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Tony D. Divish, addressed the troops, speaking fondly of the accomplishments throughout the unit's history, from state-side missions including annual training and disaster relief to a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Divish congratulated Sanders and offered Euler advice on the challenges he will face in his new command.

Euler addressed the small contingent of unit Soldiers, congratulating them on their accomplishments despite small numbers, as much of the unit is scheduled to be mobilized with the 778th Transportation Company in preparation for an OIF deployment.

From CONTRACTING, Page 24

The approved contingency contract structure consists of 37 teams for the active Army, 19 teams for the Army Reserve and 64 teams for the National Guard. During the past eight years of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom the Air Force has been doing the heavy workload supporting the Army contracting requirements. The need for these teams to be prepared for deployment is critical in order for the Army to contribute to contracting mission in larger numbers that they may relieve their Air Force counterparts.

Recently the 1993rd CCT from Utah completed a year-long tour in the Balkans providing contracting activities in support of the mission there. The 1917th CCT from Colorado is currently serving in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Retired Lt. Col. Thomas Drinkwater currently serves as the National Guard Bureau Acquisition Career Manager for acquisition workforce.

"It is amazing to see the dedication of the Army National Guard Contingency Contracting Teams transforming into a professional workforce over the past two years," said Drinkwater, "plus becoming equal to that of their active duty counterparts when there were naysayers who said it could not be done."

Legion Riders present check

Six American Legion Riders, representing riders from American Legion Post 414 in Kingman, Kan., presented a check for \$3,000 to Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, to benefit the Kansas National Guard's Wounded Warrior project. The six -- Kelly Jayne, chapter director; Ronnie Fankhauser, Darrel Goetz; Mike Hyde; Chris Kaufman and Joe Wolfe -- rode from Kingman to Topeka to make the presentation.

Photo by Steve Larson,
Public Affairs Office



995th Maintenance Company open house promotes community interaction

*By Sgt. Kevin Landers, UPAR
995th Maintenance Company*

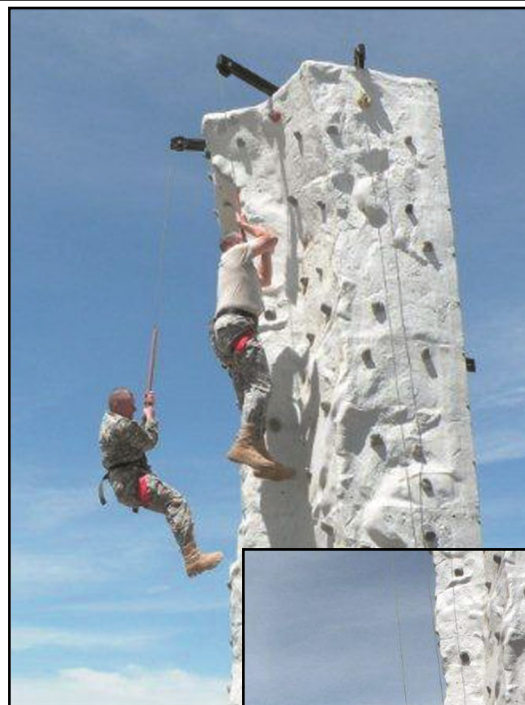
Approximately 70 people attended two open house events held May 1, 2010, at the Kansas National Guard armories in Smith Center and Concordia. The events were hosted by 995th Maintenance Company, which recently relocated one detachment to Concordia from Phillipsburg due to armory consolidations.

“We wanted the local community to know that we were new to the area and to let them come out and see what we’re all about,” said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Kohlman, Detachment 1 platoon sergeant. In Concordia, along with the display of the unit’s Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck wrecker, humvees and other equipment were a climbing wall, jousting pit and mechanical bull. Sgt. 1st Class Claire Hoesing, the local Kansas National Guard recruiter, was on hand to provide information for prospective enlistees.

In Smith Center, Staff Sgt. Tim McCammon manned the X-box 360 system and inflatable jousting pit, while the unit displayed their organic equipment. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks were served at both locations.

“This event was planned to refresh the relationship with the citizens of Smith Center and introduce ourselves to Concordia,” said Capt. Mark Mullinax 995th Company commander. “We had a variety of guests, from former unit members coming by for a visit to those that had no idea of who we are or what we do.”

“Everyone seemed to have a great time visiting and taking their turn on the recruiters’ equipment. We got several good recruitment leads and even had one person enlist in the unit. I’m extremely happy and couldn’t ask for a better outcome for the event,” Mullinax concluded.



(above) Soldiers of the 995th Maintenance Company, Concordia, hung out the “welcome sign” for the open house sponsored by the unit in May.

*Photos by
Sgt. Kevin
Landers,*

(above) National Guard Soldiers try their skill on climbing the rock wall, getting to the top of the obstacle, (right) while visitors, decide to try it for themselves. An open house is a good recruiting tool.



Afghan village using drip irrigation in community garden

By Sgt. Adam Cloyd,
Agribusiness Development Team #2

The missions of agribusiness development teams are as varied as the civilian backgrounds of the National Guardsmen that make them up. With the paths their missions follow as winding as the goat trails the teams travel on to assess agriculture practices in their provinces.

Adding to the challenge is the fact that successes in agriculture take time. Wheat planted in September isn't harvested until May or June. ADTs often do not get to see the results of their efforts before it's time to return home.

Providing basic agriculture education and services for the people in order to support the legitimacy and effectiveness of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the starting point for ADT operations.

In Laghman Province, the Kansas ADT is working alongside their Afghan partners to better manage the provinces water resources as one part of



Drip irrigation technology allowed the people of Gerday Kats village to plant an orchard in their community garden. Drip irrigation significantly decreases the amount of water needed versus traditional flood irrigation allowing the village to utilize its water supply more efficiently.

Photos by Sgt. Adam Cloyd,
Agribusiness Development Team #2

Village leaders pose in the new community garden. With families returning to Gerday Kats village, local leaders are placing a high priority on community projects like the new orchard.



their mission to assist and educate farmers.

Water management is a vital link in the food security chain and a top priority for the government offices the team works hand in hand with every day. Given a reliable water source, Afghan farmers have proven themselves gifted farmers.

"The easiest and the hardest thing I can do is teach them to use their water better," said Staff Sgt. Harold Wespe, the team's agronomist.

When the team walked into a new community garden in the village of Gerdy Kats, lined with trees planted using drip irrigation, they knew they had made the right turn down their path.

"I'm impressed to see the technology from the demonstration site make its way so quickly to the village," said Staff Sgt. Donald Flax, the team's Rural Development Specialist.

Col. Mike Dittamo, the ADT commander, agreed. "Seeing this technology here means most importantly that they believe in it," said Dittamo.

The technology was taught at the demonstration farm just outside of Forward Operating Base Zio Haq, near Gerdy Kats. Classes were developed and taught by local nationals from the Laghman Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock's office, one of the Laghman Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan line director's offices that the ADT is responsible to support.

Drip irrigation can be a key component in a village's overall water management plan and the DAIL has made teaching this technology a priority in the province.

See IRRIGATION, Page 29

731st Transportation Company provides support for South Carolina Soldiers

*By Capt. Peter Euler,
731st Transportation Company*

With many new Soldiers among their ranks, members of the 731st Transportation Company received valuable experience assisting their fellow National Guard members from South Carolina during the unit's annual training.

Soldiers from the 731st helped secure and transport decommissioned tanks from Camp McCready, located near Fort Jackson, S.C., more than 120 miles to the Charleston Harbor, where they will be eventually taken out to sea via ship and dripped into the water to establish an artificial reef.

Many of the 731st Soldiers are either brand new to the Army or the truck driver military occupational specialty, which made the trip and the missions extremely worthwhile, as each unit truck logged over 3,000 miles during the annual training period. Unit members experienced driving in heavy urban traffic in Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga.; adverse weather conditions as the annual training

overlapped into the start of the Gulf Coast's hurricane season and the sporadic unimproved roads throughout the convoy route.



Members of the South Carolina National Guard load an M113 onto one of the 731st Medium Truck Company's M872 trailers while members of the 731st perform Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services.

(Photo provided)

From IRRIGATION, Page 28

"Drip irrigation can stretch their water out, giving them more bang for their buck, which is always a good thing," said Wespe.

"Drip irrigation is a new method for our people," said Wazir Akhan, an elder in Gerday Kats village. "Without it, we could not have planted our new orchard."

"We're very thankful to the coalition forces, especially the ADT," he added.

Teaching the technology is only the first step in the Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock's goals. Having the local farmers adapt the technology and employ it in their villages after the training is vital to the director's efforts and, in turn, the ADT's.

"This is a package that can be repeated easily in other villages and will be," Dittamo added. The ADT is working on that package already with the DAILs staff and hopes to reproduce the project's success in multiple villages.

"Train the trainer is a great combat multiplier and this project allows us to do just that," said Capt. Dallas McMullen, the agriculture officer in charge.

When villagers told the team that farmers from neighboring villages were asking them about the technology and how it worked the team knew they had a winning formula. With Afghans teaching Afghans and those Afghans passing down the knowledge, not only is the food security chain strengthening in the province but so is the knowledge chain.

Battalion deploys for year-long mission in the Horn of Africa

By Steve Larson
Public Affairs Office

Five hundred seventy-six members of the Kansas Army National Guard, were honored during a ceremony at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., on May 10, as they prepared to deploy to the Horn of Africa for a year-long mission.

The Soldiers are from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, headquartered in Kansas City, with subordinate units in Wichita, Lawrence, Lenexa, Emporia and Manhattan. Lt. Col. Greg Mittman is the commander leading the unit along with Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Hester.

"This is a unique formation," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general. "In front of you today are 576 of the finest warriors anywhere—574 Soldiers and two Airmen."

"And people ask me all the time... they say 'Well, general, the Horn of Africa is a hard place. That's not a very good place'," Bunting continued. "And I say 'I understand that, but they don't send us anywhere other than that.' When the skies are clear and the winds are fair, we're fishing like everybody else. It's to the hell-holes on Earth and the hard places and where hard things have to be done that we go. And that is why in front of you right now are 576 warriors who stood up and said 'Choose me, send me and we'll go to the Horn of Africa and do a great job'."

"Why this mission? Why Africa?" Mittman posed rhetorically. "Recent history demonstrates that areas of instability throughout the world directly impact American national security. East Africa... has long lacked stable governments capable of providing regional security and long-term prosperity."



Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, Kansas national Guard, march into their deployment ceremony in Salina on May 10.

Photo by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office

"Our mission includes mentoring and assisting East African nations in developing these capacities," said Mittman. "The warriors of the 1st Kansas battalion are charged with helping shape this outcome, with promoting liberty and thus protecting our own national security."

"Thomas Paine reminds us 'Those who expect to reap the blessings of liberty must also undergo the fatigue of supporting it'," Mittman continued. "And since that fateful day in September, the warriors that you see before you have served in Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Germany and Saudi Arabia." "One day soon," he concluded, "the fatigue we begin experiencing this day will pass. We will look forward to that spring day when we are reunited and to the privilege of living out our remaining days in peace."

Christian accepts command of 73rd Civil Support Team (WMD)

A change of command ceremony was held June 18 at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan., to induct incoming commander, Lt. Col. Dirk Christian for the command of the 73rd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Ruiz was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose.

"Ruiz's leadership and professionalism were key factors in the unit's performance," said Rose.

The unit, ranked as one of the top in the nation by the Army North external evaluation shows that Ruiz had always set the highest standards in personal dedication and commitment to duty.

Christian knows that he has big shoes to fill, but is looking forward to the challenge as the new commander.

"I am most looking forward to working with such a great bunch of Soldiers and Airmen," he said.

"This is truly a unit of quiet professionals that have demonstrated excellence time and time again throughout their history."

"I am also looking forward to a pretty quick operational tempo leading up to the Army North External Evaluation at the end of this training year."

Christian says that his greatest challenge is how he will take an excellent unit and

make it even better. He says he's impressed with the unit's past performance and the great reputation they have throughout the State and nation.

"My challenge is to maintain the high marks that have already been set while continuing to field new equipment and improve overall readiness," he said.

His long-term goal for the unit is to continue to work and train with the civilian agencies and emergency services that they routinely work with while expanding the awareness throughout the State of Kansas.

"I would also like to expand the team's capability as an 'All Hazards' team; providing the Governor, the Adjutant General, and the National Guard with an additional quick response asset to any disaster or incident in which our skills and/or equipment may be needed."



(top left) Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose hands the guidon for the 73rd Civil Support Team to incoming commander Lt. Col. Dirk Christian. She then pins the Meritorious Service Medal to outgoing commander Lt. Col. Daniel Ruiz.

Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, State Public Affairs Office



(top left, from left) The Christian family, daughter Kylie, wife, Amy, Lt. Col. Dirk Christian and daughter Alyssa take a moment to pose for a photo. (top right, from left) The Ruiz family takes a moment for a photo. Daughter Gabriel 'Gabby'; Lt. Col. Daniel Ruiz; his wife Lynell and their son, Jeremy.

Photos by Sgt. Jason Lee, State Public Affairs Office

Museum moves to new spaces

Photos and story by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The additions to the Kansas National Guard Museum are finished and with the new space, the crowded exhibits had to be moved. So recently, a call to arms for everyone that could help was put out, and the Guard retirees, members of the 35th Infantry Division and the 190th Air Refueling Wing responded in force.

It took more than a week to move exhibits to the new 5,500 square foot addition. The museum now has approximately 13,500 square feet of exhibit space—which is full of the Kansas National Guard's history.

"This space is great," says Museum board president and Hall of Fame inductee, retired Brig. Gen. Edward H. Gerhardt.

"Now we aren't so crowded with our history on display, but, as anyone can see, it might not be too long before we need to add more."

Gerhardt refers to the numerous items the museum receives from deployed Soldier and Airmen, and items donated by other organizations. Future plans include moving a KC-135 Tanker and an EB-57 bomber onto the museum outside exhibit areas.

The museum is located at 6700 S. Topeka Blvd., in the Forbes Field Air Industrial Park in Topeka, Kan. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. To find out more, contact the museum at (785) 862-1020 or find them on the web at www.kansasguardmuseum.org.



The Movers and the Shakers—

(Top photo, from left) Retirees play an important role in the success of the Kansas National Guard Museum. Numerous retirees donated their time to help move exhibits. Retirees Chief Warrant Officer 4 Victor Pape, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl Busch, Master Sgt. Ralph Enloe and Col. Robert Staiert team up to move a heavy case.

35th Division helps out—

Members of the 35th Infantry Division helped move exhibits, also. **(left photo)** Capt. Roland Galliart tries his hand at operating an AT-249/GRD hand-held ground antenna. **(middle photo)** Capt. Michael Bethea finds out what field conditions were like while working on a field desk, trying to radio with a RT-196 PRC 6 radio. **(right photo, from left)** 1st Lt. Paul Dake and Staff Sgt. James Henry see how much room a jeep has.



Sherman Retires— awarded LOM

In celebration of Lt. Col. Gloria J. Sherman's more than 36 years of service, a retirement party was held for her at the United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) in Topeka, where she was awarded the Legion of Merit for her service.

Chief of the Joint Staff Col. Eric Peck pinned the medal on her with thanks and praise for her constant devotion and sense of duty.

"Her untiring drive for success and unwavering passion for excellence set the standard for other to emulate," Peck said as he recited the Legion of Merit order signed by Lt. Gen. Thomas G. Miller.

Miller stated that Sherman had the highest traditions of military service, a total dedication to duty and had an outstanding performance while demonstrating true professionalism.

Sherman was the comptroller for the USPFO and says that she will miss the job and the people.

"I've known some of these people since I got in the Guard and it will be strange not seeing them each day. A lot of us became like family," she said.

She spent more than five years on active duty before joining the Guard in 1980. She attended and graduated Officer Candidate School in 1982 with Class 26.

When asked what she has planned next, Sherman chuckles and says, "it's time to get caught up on a lot of stuff. I'll stay busy with my civic organizations, but I want to travel and go visit members of my family that I haven't had much time to be with over the years. When I get all of that done, then, maybe, I'll look for a job."



Chief of the Joint Staff Col. Eric Peck pins on the Legion of Merit to Lt. Col. Sherman (above) Sherman accepts a bouquet of flowers with her daughter, Kaitlyn Sherman. (right photo) Nearly 100 well wishers were present at the social.



Attending the function were Sherman's granddaughter (above, left photo) Hailey Davison, Sherman's daughter-in-law and other granddaughter (above, right photo) Ginney and Juliana Davison.

Jensen retires

During a retirement ceremony for Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark H. Jensen, the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting awarded the Legion of Merit to him.

"As the state's Command Chief Warrant Officer," said Bunting, "his character and energy motivated his subordinates and peers and established a reputation for excellence in Soldier Care."

Jensen spent more than 41 years in the service and epitomized the Army values while always placing the mission and Soldiers first.

Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony and wished Jensen well in his retirement.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5
Mark H. Jensen**

Soldier's example inspires respect for nation's flag

By Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office

As parents we teach our growing children many things – how to tie their shoes, how to say their ABCs, and how to write their name. However, as one Kansas National Guard Soldier learned, there are some very important lessons that some children have never been taught.

Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Mann works in the Kansas National Guard Counter Drug Office. As part of her job, she teaches a “Stay on Track” class to the students at Chase Middle School in Topeka, Kan.

Mann was at the school one day when the intercom came on and told students to get ready for the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Of course I stood at attention, faced the flag and followed along with the person on the speaker,” said Mann. “In my peripheral vision I could see that none of the students stood.”

Mann was in shock. When the Pledge of Allegiance had finished she turned to the classroom and asked “You don’t stand for the Pledge of Allegiance?”

She recalls the students shrugged their shoulders and said “We don’t have to.” The teacher confirmed what the students said and told Mann that she could not require them to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I had never witnessed anything like this in my life and was totally unprepared for my reaction,” said Mann. “I was not angry, I was heart broke, absolutely pained in my heart. I had to excuse myself from the room to get my emotions in check. I knew this was not the fault of the students and I didn’t want to hold it against them.”

Mann excused herself from the room until she could get her composure back. After leaving for the day, she asked herself why it had such an emotional impact on



Students from Chase Middle School in Topeka unfold a U.S. flag during a retirement ceremony conducted on April 9.

Photos by Jane Welch, Public Affairs Office



Under the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Mann, Kansas National Guard, members of the American Legion Post #1 and student at Chase Middle School in Topeka, conduct a retirement ceremony for a worn U.S. flag.

her. She mulled it over and came to the realization that it was because of her love for this country and her patriotism. It had never occurred to her that others would not feel the same way.

“It hurt me to see these students make a statement that they did not understand,” said Mann.

The following week, the teacher reported back to Mann that the students had taken time to discuss her reaction. Until that moment, they did not “get” the importance of standing for the Pledge of Allegiance or even what that meant to them and the people who serve in the military. What made Mann the most proud was that the students didn’t wait until she was back in the classroom so that she could see them standing during the Pledge of Allegiance. They started doing it the very next day.

To build on that experience Mann decided to educate the class not just on the Pledge of Allegiance but on the proper way to retire a U.S. flag. She enlisted the help of some members of the American Legion Post #1 in Topeka.

On April 9, students from Chase Middle School, the Kansas National Guard and the American Legion participated in a flag retirement ceremony. The ceremony was done with the honor and respect befitting our nation’s flag.

After the ceremony was complete, four members of the student body unfolded the flag, and holding it by each corner approached the fire and respectfully placed it in the fire. The students stood quietly and watched the flames engulf the flag. This was a lesson they would not soon forget.

Black Hawks give policy makers aerial view of reservoir area

By Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

Three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Kansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation provided aerial transport June 2 so policymakers from around Kansas could get a firsthand look at the John Redmond Reservoir near Burlington in Coffey County. Their goal was to see how sediment is affecting the reservoir's ability to produce natural resources.

The Kansas Army National Guard worked in conjunction with the Kansas Geological Survey's Geology Extension program and the Kansas Field Conference to make the trip possible. Kansas National Guard units often provide civic leader orientation flights to community leaders and are responders in emergency response issues related to flooding, other natural disasters and nuclear events.

"We certainly want to thank all of you (Kansas National Guard) for giving us this great opportunity to be here," said District 31 State Senator Carolyn McGinn. "(In the legislature) we see a lot of things on paper. Sometimes people try to bring pictures in, but you just don't truly understand until you see the overall picture."

During the two and a half day conference, participants traveled by chartered bus to different locations throughout the state to get a better understanding of how the state uses water to produce energy. The group also looked at how rangeland management practices affect nearby reservoir sedimentation, highway design and potential flood risks.

"It is really geared toward educating legislatures and decision makers on what the issues are and what some of the background is and what the options are," said Earl Lewis, assistant director, Kansas Water Office.

Participants traveled to the Flint Hills, Cross Timbers and the Verdigris River basin and were given a guided tour, which provided them with background information and issues on all the locations they visited.



Kansas legislators and policy makers get a bird's eye view of John Redmond Reservoir and the surrounding watershed area, courtesy of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Lee, Public Affairs Office

From EXERCISE, Page 4

The CERF-P, although located in Nebraska, could be called on to assist officials in Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri, as well. Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy; Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, Nebraska adjutant general; Col. Scott Gronewold, Nebraska National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Operations Director; and Col. Michael Navrkal, commander of the Nebraska National Guard's 92nd Troop Command, will visit on July 18 to observe the CERF-P exercise evaluation.

Other agencies that will be participating in Operation Smoky Hill include the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Regional Search and Rescue Team, Kansas Civil Air Patrol, Major Emergency Response Group of Wichita, Saline County Emergency Management, Salina Police Department, Salina Fire Department, Salina Regional Health Center and the American Red Cross, as well as representatives from the FBI and Secret Service. Student volunteers from Brown-Mackie College in Salina will also participate, playing the roles of incident victims.

Upcoming Events

JULY

- 11-18 Nebraska National Guard CERF-P Validation at Crisis City, Salina.
- 15-16 NGB/J7 Joint training System Specialist State Visit.
- 17-18 Leadership Retention Class, Eckert Hall, KSRTI, Salina, Kan.
- 21 Retirement Ceremony for Col. Larry Hannan, Nickell Barracks, Room 115, Topeka, 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Change of command 635th RSG, Custer Hill Parade Field, Fort Riley. 1 p.m. *RSVP by June 30, to Maj. John Tucker, 1-620-728-4202.*
- 24 Medical Detachment dining out. Fiorella's Private Dining, 13645 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Social hour 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Dress Blue or Formal Class A's. *POC is Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Sidwell, 913-492-3920.*
- 28 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Thomas retirement recognition, Nickell Armory, room 115, 10:30 a.m.
- 30 Retirement ceremony for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Reed. 1 p.m. at the Regional Training Site, Maintenance break room, 2750 Scanlan Avenue, Salina, Kan.

AUGUST

- 6-8 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Champion Rifle-Pistol Match (*For more information, contact Staff Sgt. David Salinas, 785-608-3685*)
- 10-11 Strategic Planning Workshop, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (South Armory), Room #231.
- 14 OCS Graduation at Salina
- 16-20 Kansas National Guard Museum Conference at the Liberty Memorial Museum in Kansas City.
- 21-13 National Guard Association Conference in Austin, Texas

SEPTEMBER

- 14-17 NGB/J7 Joint training System Specialist State Visit
- 25 HQ, 891st Engineer Regimental Ball and Golf Tourney—Coffeyville Community College, 400 W. 11th St. *For more information contact Capt. Sean Linn, 620-365-4021 or sean.linn@us.army.mil*

From COMMAND CHANGE, Page 22

"This is our special place, where these who served in our 155 year history are remembered and honored," said Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, remarking about the ceremony being held at the Kansas National Guard Museum.

"Our nation has been at war for over seven years and Kansas has met every task—we have Soldiers and Airmen in every endeavor throughout the world, and these two men have met the singular task to make us in the National Guard even better," said Bunting.

Tafanelli said that he was eager to begin work and accept the challenges ahead of him.

"There has been so much done by Brig. Gen. Davoren," he said. "But, there will always be more challenges and problems that will pop up to we servants of the people."

"We must stay focused, alert and vigilant so we can always be ready for any contingency. I will work my hardest to ensure that we are all ready for the challenge."

In his acceptance speech, Col. Lee Tafanelli said he was thankful for his selection and ready to begin.



Photo by
Maj. Mike Wallace,
105th MPAD